



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/587,211	07/25/2006	Noa Hasid	27571U	7160
20529	7590	07/25/2008		
NATH & ASSOCIATES 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314		EXAMINER CHAMBERS, TRAVIS SLOAN		
		ART UNIT 2833		PAPER NUMBER
		MAIL DATE 07/25/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/587,211	Applicant(s) HASID, NOA
	Examiner TRAVIS CHAMBERS	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on remarks dated 05/16/2008.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,7 and 9-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,7,11-13,16 - 20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2-4,9,10,14 and 15 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Cancellations

The cancellation of claims 5,6,8 and 21 have been made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

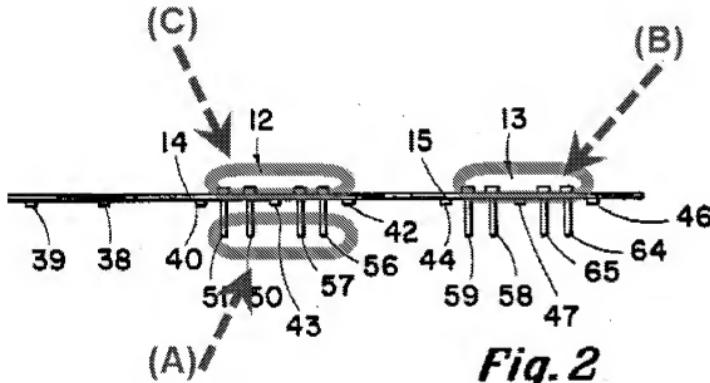
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

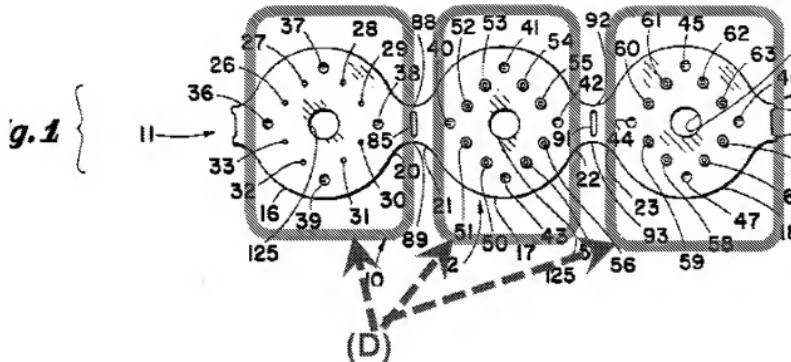
Claim(s) 1,7,11-13,16,20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shannon (4072376).

In reference to claim 1, Shannon teaches a multi-socket assembly (10 ; figure 2) formed as a unitary, integrally molded body (10 ; figure 1) comprising: a plug unit (50,51,56,57 ; figure 2 forming A; image below) integrally formed with a first socket unit (58-65 ; figure 2 forming B; image below) and at least one additional socket unit (50-57 ; figure 1 forming C; image below) electrically connected to the plug unit (A), each being formed as blocks (pertaining to each section A-C; image below) interconnected by a flexible bridge (88,89,92,93 ; figure 1); electrically insulating material (16-18 ; figure 1) encapsulating at least two parallelly spaced apart electrical connections (50,51,56-59, 64,65 ; figure 3) between the plug unit (A) and the socket unit (B); the flexible bridge (88,89,92,93) being of sufficient length to enable folding thereof so as to provide a compact configuration, whereby the at least one additional socket (C) unit is aligned over the plug unit (A).

In particular reference to the recitation "to enable", this is seen to be for the intended use of the claimed structure and are given little patentable weight. Further, the recitation is not seen to claim any structure that prevents the reference from being used for the same purpose as the intended use recitations of the claim.



In reference to claim 7, Shannon teaches the blocks are formed as discs (D ; image below).



In reference to claim 11, Shannon teaches the material (pertaining to 16-18) is a suitable plastic or rubber-based material (Col. 4 line(s) 35-45).

In reference to claim 12, Shannon teaches the material is a flexible material (Col. 4 line(s) 35-45).

In reference to claim 13, Shannon teaches the integral body (10) is formed by casting the at least one encapsulating material in a suitable mold.

In particular reference to "formed by casting", the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

In reference to claim 16, Shannon teaches two the socket units (B,C) linearly arranged with respect to the plug unit (A).

In reference to claim 20, Shannon teaches particularly adapted for distributing AC current from the plug unit (A) to the socket units (B and C).

In particular reference to the recitation "adapted for", this is seen to be for the intended use of the claimed structure and are given little patentable weight. Further, the recitation is not seen to claim any structure that prevents the reference from being used for the same purpose as the intended use recitations of the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shannon (4072376) in view of Milan (5658158).

In reference to claim 17, Shannon shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However Shannon does not teach a suitable indicator for alerting a user that the assembly is connected to an electric source.

Milan teaches a suitable indicator (29 ; figure 1) for alerting a user that the assembly is connected to an electric source.

Therefore one of ordinary skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teaching of the indicator of Milan because it better facilitates alerting the user to a satisfactory electrical connection.

In reference to claim 18, Shannon shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However Shannon does not teach the indicator comprises an LED that is adapted for lighting when the assembly is connected to an electric source.

Milan teaches the indicator (29) comprises an LED that is adapted for lighting when the assembly is connected to an electric source.

Therefore one of ordinary skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teaching of the LED of Milan because based on aesthetic/environmental requirements/preference that are driven by a desire to increase market share.

In reference to claim 19, Shannon shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However Shannon does not teach at least one switch for selectively connecting or interrupting the electrical connection between the plug unit and the at least one the socket unit.

Milan does not teach at least one switch (30 ; figure 1) for selectively connecting or interrupting the electrical connection between the plug unit (27 ; figure 1) and the at least one the socket unit (31 ; figure 1).

Therefore one of ordinary skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teachings of the switch of Milan because it better facilitates activation and deactivation of an electrical connection to improve safety and reduce damage to attached components.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 2-4, 9, 10, 14 and 15 have allowable subject matter.
- Claims 2-4, 9, 10, 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

□ The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not show the unique structure of (Claim 2) electrical connections comprise a phase line, comprising electrically connected elements including a pin, conductor and at least one connector, and a neutral line, comprising electrically connected elements including a pin, conductor and at least one connector, (Claim 3) said electrical connections further comprise a ground line, comprising electrically connected elements including a pin, conductor and at least one connector, (Claim 4) said earth line, phase line and neutral lines are each arranged along substantially parallel axes, and wherein the earth line axis is in-between the phase line axis and the neutral line axis, (Claim 9) locking means to reversibly lock said at least one socket unit with respect to said plug unit when in said compact configuration, (Claim 10) said locking means comprise mutually engageable male and female elements, each comprised on facing surfaces of said plug unit and said socket unit when in the said compact configuration, (Claim 14) wherein the plug unit and the socket units are formed as blocks interconnected via at least one of webs and bridges, and wherein a first encapsulating material is used for the blocks and a second encapsulating material is used for the bridges, (Claim 15) the first encapsulating material is relatively more rigid than the second encapsulating material.

This structure, in combination with all the other elements of the claim is not seen to be anticipated by the prior art and the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

- If the application becomes allowable, any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable Subject Matter".

Response to Arguments

- Applicant's arguments filed in response to the previous office action have been considered, but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

- The prior art listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention.
- Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis Chambers whose telephone number is 571-272-6813. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Travis Chambers
TC
7/21/2008

/Tho D. Ta/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2833